Financial assistance from foreign countries

†1314. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries in respect of which an agreement for extending financial assistance was made during the period from 1994-95 to 1996-97 year-wise;

(b) the names of those countries together with the details of the amounts of agreement;

(c) the amounts actually given as loans and grants-in-aid to each of the countries during the said period; and

(d) the details of the financial assistance and loan received by India from foreign countries as well as the number of agreements made for grants during the same period togetherwith the amounts involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Passport for air travel between India and Kathmandu

1315. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce passport for the air travel between India and Kathmandu and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) India and Nepal have agreed to tighten the existing system whereby Indian and Nepalese nationals travelling by air between the two countries are required to present photo identification documents to establish their nationality. Indian citizens would be required to be in possession of any one of the following documents while travelling by air between the two countries:

— Valid national passport.

— Photo identity card issued by the Government of India/any State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government or Union Territory Administration in India/Identity card issued by the Election Commission of India.

— Emergency Certificate issued by Embassy of India, Kathmandu to Indian nationals in case of emergent conditions.

— Nepalese citizens would be required to be in possession of any one of the following documents while travelling by air between the two countries:

— Valid national passport.

— Photo identity card issued by the Government of Nepal.

— Emergency Certificate issued by the Royal Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi to the Nepalese nationals in case of emergent conditions.

Children up to the age of 10 years will not require the above-mentioned documents for travelling between India and Nepal, by air.

(b) The above decision will be implemented with effect from October 1,2000.

Finalisation of details on US visit by Prime Minister

1316. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the details of Prime Minister's visit to US during coming months has been finalised;

(b) if so, whether he is contemplating to take up the matter with USA for lifting sanctions as fall out of Pokharan Test before finalising the details of the visit; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Prime Minister will pay an official visit to Washington from 15-17 September 2000 at the invitation of the US President. He will also be visiting New York and San Francisco.

(b) and (c) Government uses every opportunity to convey to the US Government that all unilateral restrictions against India are injustified and counter-productive and should be completely lifted.

The visit, which is expected to contribute towards establishing a closer and qualitatively new relationship and deepening co-operation between India